



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Richard Hartunian
Northern District of New York

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 9, 2012

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nyn>

GUILTY PLEA IN DRUG POSSESSION CASE

RICHARD S. HARTUNIAN, United States Attorney, Northern District of New York, announces that **ROY NEAL**, age 23, of Syracuse, New York, pled guilty today in U.S. District Court in Syracuse to a one count Information charging him with possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

As part of his plea, **NEAL** admitted that on August 30, 2011, he was driving a 2001 Pontiac Bonneville in Syracuse when he was pulled over for suspected traffic violations. As the officers approached the vehicle, **NEAL** secreted a plastic bag containing approximately 9 grams of crack cocaine in his buttocks in an effort to conceal it from the police. **NEAL** then fled from police in his vehicle, only to be pulled over again after a short chase. **NEAL** was taken into custody at that point and the crack cocaine was recovered.

This marks the third felony drug conviction for **NEAL**, with the previous two convictions occurring in Onondaga County Court in 2005 and 2010.

At sentencing, which is set for June 20, 2012, **NEAL** faces up to 30 years imprisonment, six years of supervised release following incarceration, and up to a \$2,000,000 fine.

This prosecution resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Syracuse Gang Violence Task Force, which is comprised of agents and detectives from the following agencies: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (Syracuse Office), the Syracuse Police Department, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department, the New York State Police, and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Further questions or inquiries may be directed to Assistant United States Attorney John M. Katko, the prosecutor handling the case, at (315) 448-0916.